

April 23, 2023 10:00 AM

“The future of life on Earth depends on our ability to see the sacred
where others see only the common.”
- John Denver

Gathering

Prelude “Up Jumped Spring” Parish Jazz Band
by Freddie Hubbard

Land Acknowledgement & Welcome Marcia Rising, Lay Minister

Greet Your Neighbor

Opening Words “Nature is always hinting at us. Keith Olcott
It hints over and over again, and
suddenly we take the hint.”
by Robert Frost

Chalice Lighting From *The Art of Loving* Rick Lent
by Rumi

* **Hymn #21** *For the Beauty of the Earth*

* **Covenant** Love is the spirit of this church,
and service its law.
This is our great covenant:
To dwell together in peace,
to seek the truth in love,
and to help one another.

* **Affirmation** Jeff Brown
From all that dwell below the skies
let words of love and peace arise.
Let joyful songs of praise be sung
through every land, by every
tongue.

Centering

Time for All Ages "April Rain Song" A poem and activity
by Langston Hughes Lindsay LaPointe and
Rebecca Stadolnik

Lighting the Lantern

* *Rise in Body and Spirit*

Reading “The Earth’s Prayer” Elizabeth Michaud
by Elizabeth Michaud

Joys and Sorrows Marcia Rising, Lay Minister
with Marion Scott and Jeff Brown

Prayer or Meditation “Earth Teach Me” Sharon Brownfield
Ute prayer

Exploring

Sharing Our Gifts

This month we share our weekly offering with **Concord Prison Outreach**.
You may donate with a check made out to “First Parish Church,”
online at <https://fpc-stow-acton.org/donate>, or text to (978) 310-3309.

“Up Jumped Spring” Parish Jazz Band

Reading Introduction to Brad Dumont,
Missa Gaia Music Director

Reflections/Sermon *Missa Gaia* Brad Dumont and the
FPC Adult Choir

Returning

* **Benediction** Selection from *Braiding Sweetgrass* Keith Olcott
by Robin Wall Kimmerer

Selection from *All We Can Save* Marion Scott
by Adrienne Rich

* **Sung Benediction**
Peace be with you ‘til we meet again!
As life lays its task before you,
Keep love’s banner floating o’er you.
Peace be with you ‘til we meet again.

Postlude *Let Us Depart in Peace* Brad Dumont and
Parish Jazz Band

Departing “gift” of sunflower seeds (in recognition of the people of Ukraine)

* *Rise in Body and Spirit*



Thank you to:
 Kate Imhoff, Zoom Host
 Lisa Rydin and Troy Liston, Ushers
 Rick Powers, Coffee Hour Host
 and to our staff and leadership

Our flowers today are given by
 the Climate Change Task Force



Land Acknowledgement

We would like to acknowledge that this service is being held by a community that gathers on the stolen traditional lands of the Massachusetts, Nipmuc, Pawtucket, and Wampanoag People. We pay respect to those Indigenous Peoples who lost their lives in the colonization of this land and recognize that these Indigenous tribes are still today facing violations of sovereignty, territory, and water. We also give thanks for the Earth we walk upon, the waters, the lifegiving plants, and all the Earth's creatures, as well as the winds, sun, moon, and stars. We recognize this is just a first step in moving toward right relationship with Native peoples and healing of the Earth.

Ways to Connect with First Parish Church

Sign our visitor log:
tinyurl.com/visitfpc



Sunday services
 10 am
 in person
 or online

Subscribe to our publications:

The Chronicle monthly e-newsletter
This Week at FPC weekly e-newsletter
FPCAnnounce & FPCForum email groups
<https://www.fpc-stow-acton.org/subscribe-newsletters>

**FIRST PARISH
 CHURCH
 OF STOW &
 ACTON**



Unitarian Universalist

Sunday, April 23, 2023

The Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum
 Minister
Marissa Evans
 Acting Director, Religious Education
Meg Rivers-Wright
 Administration and Membership
Brad Dumont
 Music Director

Trish Woods.....Interim Pianist
Mike Silkonis.....Sexton
Ben Child.....Tech Assistant
Janet Beatrice.....External Publicity
Sharon Brownfield.....President
Jenni Edgerton.....Vice President
Bill Froberg.....Treasurer
Johanna Pyle.....Clerk

*First Parish is a Unitarian Universalist Association Welcoming Congregation.
 We warmly welcome gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender
 people into our community.*

To help everyone be a part of worship in the fullest way possible, the ushers can provide large print orders of service and hymnals or, for people who need to step out during the service for any reason, an assisted listening device (portable radio) which works throughout the building.

Masking Policy: Masking is required in the sanctuary except at the pulpit, for soloists, and in the balcony. Masking is also required in religious education classrooms, and staff offices upon request.

On the web at [fpc-stow-acton.org](https://www.fpc-stow-acton.org) and on Facebook.

ONLINE SUPPLEMENT PAGE: Information for folks joining us online

1. Closed captioning is available for FPC's online services. If you don't see captions on your screen, you can use the button at the bottom of your screen to request that the host turn them on.
2. Today's Zoom Host is Kate Imhoff.
3. Hymn lyrics are below.



Hymn #21 *For the Beauty of the Earth*

1. For the beauty of the earth,
for the splendor of the skies,
for the love which from our birth
over and around us lies:

Chorus: Source of all, to thee we raise this, our hymn of grateful praise.

2. For the joy of ear and eye,
for the heart and mind's delight,
for the mystic harmony
linking sense to sound and sight: (Chorus)
3. For the wonder of each hour
of the day and of the night,
hill and vale and tree and flower,
sun and moon and stars of light: (Chorus)
4. For the joy of human care,
sister, brother, parent, child,
for the kinship we all share,
for all gentle thoughts and mild: (Chorus)

Sharing Our Gifts

If you are mailing a pledge or a donation, here is the information:

Pledges:

Attn: Pledge Secretary
PO Box 215
Stow, MA 01775

Donations:

Attn: Treasurer
353 Great Rd
Stow, MA 01775

Announcements begin on next page

**April Plate
Sharing:**

**Concord Prison
Outreach**

Concord Prison Outreach (CPO) is a 501(c)(3) organization composed of a coalition of individuals and faith communities committed to helping people who are incarcerated build better lives for themselves and their families. Since its founding in 1968, when its first volunteers helped to support people in a local prison infirmary, CPO has developed into the largest organization of its kind in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. CPO works cooperatively with the

Massachusetts Department of Correction (DOC), offering educational programs that focus on skill-building and personal growth, essentials to help support people in prison to achieve success while incarcerated or post-incarceration.

Recently, CPO has restarted programming in the BRAVE (Building Responsible Adults through Validation and Education) Unit to house 45 young fathers at MCI-Concord. Many of the young fathers have no relationships with their own fathers, or positive role models. Mentors will support these younger men as they work at being fathers themselves, navigate the stressors of prison life, and participate in programming to bolster other areas of their lives. Programming includes mentoring to guide fathers to have healthier relationships with their children.

For information about CPO programs and volunteer opportunities, please visit the website concordprisonoutreach.org.

This Week in Religious Education

All ages, PreK-12th graders are invited for a special Earth Day workshop with Lindsay LaPointe! Weather permitting, we'll go outside. Otherwise, gather in the Fellowship Hall.

Do you know a teen interested in babysitting?

We are looking to supplement our core group of paid FPC-affiliated teen childcare providers with a few new individuals from the Stow/Acton/Maynard area who are in 8th grade or beyond that you would personally recommend. Teens don't necessarily have to have babysitting experience, just be responsible and have interest in connecting with children. We pay \$15/hr. and have occasional weekend openings, especially Sunday mornings in the summer. If you know someone to recommend, please email Justin Marble at justin.a.marble@gmail.com.



FPC Today

10 am Service, Sanctuary/Online
11 am Coffee Hour and RJTF Mother's Day card sale, Fellowship Hall
12 pm Spiritual Conversations, Online

Buy a lovely Mother's Day card AND support the UU Urban Ministry!

Mother's Day is May 14, just three weeks away, and when you buy a card you'll be helping to support the Unitarian Universalist Urban Ministry in Roxbury, MA. Your gift will help UUUM expand opportunities and programming for students in the Roxbury Youth Programs. FPC has been a member of the UUUM for over 20 years. Please join us in supporting them!

There are two ways you can buy a card:

BRING \$25* cash or check to FPC coffee hour today or Sunday, May 7, or to the Ferry Beach retreat.

Helen Ham, June McKnight, and/or Katy Weeks of FPC's Racial Justice Task Force will be selling the cards after the Sunday service.

*suggested donation

Buy online at the UUUM website

<https://www.uuum.org/mothers-day-2023>.

Customize your card with a note and it will be sent by UUUM to the recipient of your choice, now through May 4.

Spiritual Conversations Through Poetry Today, 12 pm noon, Online
You don't need to know anything about poetry to join Elizabeth Cobblah, Ilene Rudman, and Hector Constantzos for this deeply satisfying time of connection that's been going on at FPC for over a decade! Engage with others through a poem – read, listen, respond. Please contact one of us with questions or to attend: ecobblah@fenn.org, irudman@aol.com, or Hconstantzos@gmail.com.

This Week at FPC: April 24 – 28

Mon 4/24 **Racial Justice Task Force (RJTF) Drop-in** 7-7:30 pm, Online
Parish Jazz Band Rehearsal 7-9 pm, Sanctuary - Please contact Michael Paladini mwpaladini@gmail.com for more information.

Tue 4/25 **Coffee and Chat*** 10-11 am, Town Gazebo at Town Park, adjacent to FPC. Bring your own coffee!
Social Justice Council meeting 6-7pm, Online

Wed 4/26 **Meditation*** 7:30-8:30 pm, Fellowship Hall/Online
Contact: meditation@fpc-stow-acton.org

Thu 4/27 **Peace Vigil*** 5-6 pm, in front of FPC, btwn. Common & Great Rds.
Contact: Neil Saunders neilsaund@verizon.net
Vespers: Refresh, Renew, Revitalize 6-6:45 pm, Community Room
Choir Rehearsal 7:15-9 pm, Sanctuary

Fri 4/28 **Annual FPC Ferry Beach Retreat** April 28-30,
Ferry Beach Retreat and Conference Center, Saco, ME
Bridge Group* 1-3:30 pm, Community Room
Contact: Hector Hconstantzos@gmail.com

Sun 4/30 **Next Sunday's Service:** 10am, Sanctuary/Online/Phone

“I Brought My Spirit to the Sea” – Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum

This Sunday we're doing something we've never done before – broadcasting the service *to* FPC from our Ferry Beach Retreat! The service from Ferry Beach will be shared in the sanctuary, but because we have a one-direction broadcast from there, joys and sorrows will need to be sent in by email to caring@fpc-stow-acton.org for those not in Maine. Our service will be an informal camp-style service on the beauty and spirituality found in nature, and we can't wait to share it with you!



Join Worship by Video: <https://tinyurl.com/2223fpc>

Meeting ID: 999 7077 0266; Passcode: 01775

Join Worship by Phone: (929) 205-6099 (toll call)



Events and Announcements

Racial Justice Task Force (RJTF) monthly drop-in session Mon 4/24, 7 pm, Online

Vespers: Refresh, Renew, Revitalize Thu, 4/27, 6pm in the Community Room -Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum. Our vespers series this year will be a spiritual service focused on how we refresh, rejuvenate, build community, and draw spiritual support for the work of justice. Come join us for a peaceful service between our peace vigil and choir rehearsal times on the fourth Thursday of the month.

Parent Discussion Group Sun 5/7, 11:15 am, Location TBD

The Religious Education Committee is offering another Parent Discussion Group. This is an opportunity for parents to come together to share knowledge and wisdom and discuss relevant parenting issues. Discussion is open to any topic. Additionally, given that a recent Pew Research study shows 76% of parents are worried, to some degree, about their children struggling with anxiety and depression in the age of COVID, specific information will be provided about recognizing signs of anxiety and depression in your child. Facilitated by Russell Hart.

Have You Planned for Our Plant Sale Yet? It's an Important FPC Fundraiser!

This year's Plant Sale is Saturday, May 20, 9:30-11:30 am. As we do every year, we're asking FPC earth lovers for plants – lots of plants! – from your yards and gardens. We're also looking for help with gathering, organizing, and labeling plants, and with setting up and running the sale. Please email peggypaladini@gmail.com.

*All are welcome to these weekly FPC events

Plants we're seeking:
shrubs, small trees,
ground cover, herbs,
perennials, vegetables,
flowering plants you
may have started
(different/unusual ones
especially desirable)

Dig up and pot ASAP:
Early-season
transplanting is less
stressful on plants.
Put them in a good spot
where they can grow
strong and look their
very best for delivery
and Sale Day.

And plant lovers, if
someone you know is
planning a graduation,
shower, or birthday,
FPC's Rental Space
Open House coincides
with the Plant Sale!
FPC's Fellowship Hall,
Community Room, and
Sanctuary can all be
rented for events.
Tour our spaces and
supply your garden in the
same trip!

PLANT SALE